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True Blood is true Rhodes.
Find out more about
alumni author inside.

Performances win Rhodes makes fasion statement

By Lee Bryant
Co-Editor

April 30 marked the celebration of the theatre arts in Memphis. The Botanical Gardens provided the stage for the Ostrander Awards, a ceremony honoring achievement in local theatre. Categories included best actor/actress, supporting actor/actress, and extended off-stage to the production, design, and sound crews. Community and college theatre was recognized for outstanding performances and technical merit.

Rhodes alumni Jane Kilgore, '09, was awarded Best Actress in Drama, College Division for her role as Sabina in the McCoy's production of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*. The show as a whole was awarded Best Dramatic Production, College Division.

Alumni Shannon King, '09, also won Best Supporting Actress in a Drama, College Division, for her performance in the McCoy's production of *Fat Pig*.



photo courtesy of Nan H.

The Antrobus family takes a breath during Act II of *The Skin of Our Teeth*, Wilder's play about the human struggle to survive. Left to right: Lee Bryant, '11 (Gladys Antrobus), Matt Bergin, '11 (Henry Antrobus), and community actors Mary (Mrs. Antrobus) and John (Mr. Antrobus) Hemphill.

By Alex Yu

As the school year begins, so do the implications of a new alcohol policy. Many students ask, "I've heard of it, but what is it?" Where did this new policy come from and why?

On a reading day in spring of 2009, a group of students and faculty gathered to discuss and propose a new policy. Why? Because the students felt that social life was heavily directed by the college, and they felt a need to take on more of the responsibility themselves. Therefore, the students brought forth a proposal, and the college allowed for it to be tested in East Village, since many of the residents there were upperclassmen and of legal drinking age. The old policy had contained a lot of do's and don'ts, but the students' policy proved to be cumbersome as well. So again, the students and faculty gathered and this time they started from scratch. What they came up with was a simple statement with very few guidelines.

The new policy is more philosophical in its ideals, following four basic guidelines: behavior that is legal, responsible, healthy, and that reflect the Rhodes College community values. There are not many specifically stated rules; the rules exist in the philosophy of responsibility and common sense, leaving the decision in the students' hands. The only requirement in the policy is that you must be 21 in order to consume alcohol, as designated by the state of Tennessee.

With the new policy, come the new wristbands. When a student turns 21, he or she will receive a silver wristband with a specific number, and the Rhodes College seal. Students do not have to wear the wristbands, however, the wristbands aid in the identification process at social gatherings for both the students and campus safety.

Sophomore Natalie Malouf said, "I think it is a good policy because it gives more freedom to the people who are of legal age to drink, which benefits the student body overall, and makes things a lot easier because people will not be hounded as much to show I.D."

Sophomore Brianna Levy commented on the wristband saying, "In theory it is a good idea but not in practice, because if people lose their wristband, they are not going to want to purchase a new one and the fact that they are inch wide silver bracelets with the Rhodes emblem...not cute."

JuTrent Schill '11 said, "I think that it is a definite step in the right direction from the old policy but there is too much subjectivity in the new one. I think it needs more revising for it to be beneficial to the student body."

Dean of Students, Carol Casey responded, "In a way the subjectivity is good because it creates dialogue



Photo Courtesy of NeNe Bafford

If you want to drink up, be sure to wear your bracelet.

Fashion, continued on Page 4

College demonstrates a commitment to diversity

NeNe Bafford
News Editor

When former Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs, Cynthia Polk-Johnson left Rhodes College a year ago, the Office of Multicultural Affairs experienced a great loss. After a year of not having a Dean in position, Sabrina Brown joined the Rhodes College faculty as the new Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs.

Brown recently moved to Memphis two months ago from North Carolina. At Davidson College, Brown served as the Diversity Program Advisor in Multicultural Affairs, as well as the Area Coordinator in the Resident Life Office for three years.

"I knew I was going to be there for three years," said Brown. "It allowed me to gain some practical experience to do what I want to do with the Multicultural Affairs Office here at Rhodes."

Organizations under the Office of Multicultural Affairs include: BSA, ASIA, RICE, HOLA, and GSA. Along with these organizations, Brown is also involved with the SOS (Serving Our Students) Mentoring Program, which is a peer-mentoring program for first-year students of color. Brown's personal goal for the program is "retention, satisfaction, and graduation."

"Students come to this school because they want to be here, but they need programs to support them. A lot of people don't leave because they can't do the work, but

because they are not satisfied with the support groups on campus," said Brown.

During her first year at Rhodes, Brown is focusing on rebuilding programs, like the SOS Program that were not as active last year, due to the loss of Polk-Johnson.

"The programs in place are really good programs," said Brown. "I want to improve them for the years to come."

Although Brown has only been on campus for a few months, she has already established great relationships with students.

"I am ecstatic that Sabrina has joined the Rhodes community. She is a great resource and a great friend. Her position extends beyond faculty, she is considered my friend," said SOS Mentor, Robin Steele, a Senior, Business major.

"It is important for an institution to have a Multicultural Affairs Office because it shows the commitment to diversity. It gives the students of color a home where they're accepted. This is a safe haven where they can talk about more serious issues," said Brown.

Brown extends her help to everyone on campus. This year, she will be Safe Zone certified, a NCBI facilitator, and she will also hold "getting to know you" exercises for groups on campus who are interested.

Student interested in being apart of BSA, GSA, HOLA, RICE, ASIA, or the SOS Mentoring Program are encouraged to email Brown at browns@rhodes.edu

Brett Favre wearing out his welcome

By John Ayers
Staff Writer

Brett Favre is one of the best quarterbacks to ever play in the National Football League. His list of both personal and professional achievements is quite lengthy. I could go on for hours about his stats, his victories, some of his incredible moments, and games from throughout his career, but I would prefer not to spend the rest of the article doing so. Instead, I am saying that the man we all loved and admired back in 2007 is gone and he is not coming back.

Now I am certainly not suggesting that Brett Favre will do poorly with the Vikings, all internal issues with Tavaris Jackson aside. In fact, I would not be surprised to see another solid year out of him similar to what we saw last year with him playing for the Jets. But, enough is enough. Brett needs to stop retiring and returning. At the end of 2007, Favre was on top of the NFL world. He was loved and respected by millions; he had just finished a spectacular season during which many football fans

became Packers fans, if only for each playoff game because they believed it to be his last. The emotional and heart-wrenching loss to the Giants could not have been a better game; when Favre cried at the end of his last game, I must say I was touched. The man loved the game and devoted so much of his spirit, time, energy, and true skill to it, through both the good times and the bad. He overcame a near-fatal car crash in high school, dealt with his wife's cancer, and also the death of his father. In officially announcing his retirement, he displayed more strong emotions; and then, he decided to come back. I personally was not pleased with this unforeseen turn of events; he threw his most loyal fans for an emotional loop. However, I thought after a while, he left while still playing well and could come back and have a good season. Furthermore, it was obviously his complete love of the game that overpowered his wife's wishes that he not return to football. Clearly, I was too forgiving.

After a solid season with the Jets, we were treated to another tearful Favre "retiring"

from football. A month later we began to hear rumors of Favre's desire to come back. By this point, my reverence for the man was gone. All he had left was skill, and that too was waning. When Favre signed with the Vikings, the bitter division rivals of his old Packers, a nasty thought finally penetrated my skull: maybe he's just in it for the money now. But, in reality, my feelings can now be better describe as apathetic, rather than disappointed. Let him do what he wants. Favre wants to take advantage of the money and popularity his name still brings, and the Vikings owner, Zygi Wilf, recognizes the profit he can reap from this move. Maybe it will even lead to some victories. But as an icon for all football fans, Brett Favre no longer holds much sway. He will go down in history as one of the greatest quarterbacks, and one of the finest players in the National Football League, but he tarnished it in the end. I wish good luck to Brett Favre with the Vikings, but now I need to find my Packers hat and hope the crowd at Lambeau Field shows him their true feelings.

Socialist accusations follow Obama

By Anna Meyerrose
Opinion Editor

Last Friday, the announcement that President Obama planned to deliver the following Tuesday, Sept. 8, as a back-to-school speech to the country's students, put the White House on the defensive yet again. Though this is seemingly one of the least controversial announcements that the White House has made in recent months, it was nevertheless met with attacks and protests from select conservative organizations, Republican leaders, and concerned parents alike.

While some protested this speech on the grounds that it would simply be disruptive to students on their first day back to school, others were downright outraged at Obama's supposed flagrant attempts to brainwash the youth of America. In the words of Florida Republican Party Chairman Jim Greer, Obama is attempting to "indoctrinate America's children to his socialist agenda" through his back-to-school talk.

Much of this controversy was centered more specifically around the proposed lesson plan in which, originally, Obama asked students to reflect on "what they can do to help the president." However, before the speech was delivered, the White House admitted fault and amended the plan to instead ask students to reflect on how they might "achieve their short-term and long-term educational goals." Meanwhile, opponents were still not placated and they continued to claim that this speech was an example of the President abusing his power in order to further his partisan political agenda.

Contrary to much of the indignation expressed against the speech, Obama did not use the power of his office to force students to actually watch his speech. In fact, the ultimate decision as to whether or not the speech was viewed at schools was left up to individual school administrations; some showed it while others opted chose to keep their children home them to Obama's leftist propa-

Despite all these protests, the Tuesday morning. In direct opposi-Obama, in his speech, avoided any the president encouraged students them: "Every single one of you single one of you has something to to yourself to discover what that tion can provide."

In sum, the President was the dropout rate of students in the many cases that demonstrate political polarization have been so extreme that it now affects all litlital and civil.

It should be noted that this means unprecedented. Former presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush both gave similar speeches without producing near the amount of controversy that has surrounded Obama's speech. Furthermore, who better to serve as a role model in favor of higher education than the President of the United States?

I agree with Charles Saylor, president of the national Parent Teacher Association, in saying that the backlash that the White House received in response to this speech is simply "sad ... the President of the United States, regardless of political affiliation, should be able to have a presentation and give a pep talk, if you will, to America's students." If everything that the President says or does is tied back to his political views and ideologies, then how will the country remain united? This huge controversy over an ultimately trivial issue seems to be an indication that America is becoming more and more politically divided. Will it now always be the right versus the left, no matter what the issue is? It seems that this division would, in turn, lead to paranoia and total mistrust between the two sides. This can be nothing but detrimental to the country.

With all of the problems that our country is facing, why bother to cause so much trouble over the President encouraging students to work hard and stay in school? All of this energy could instead be focused toward much more pressing issues that actually need resolving. Furthermore, after the speech was actually delivered on Tuesday morning, it becomes readily apparent that accusations of Obama spreading his "socialist agenda" and propaganda to American children are completely and totally unfounded. The message that seems to ring loud and clear from this whole ordeal is: Obama cannot do or say anything without it being steeped in controversy and accusations of it being driven solely by his political agenda.

In the words of Florida Republican Party Chairman Jim Greer, Obama is attempting to "indoctrinate America's children to his socialist agenda" through his back-to-school talk.

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speech was delivered as planned on tion to many opponents' predictions, mention of political issues; instead, to strive for academic success, telling has something you're good at. Every offer. And you have a responsibility is. That's the opportunity an educa-

condemned for trying to combat America. This incident is just one of the extent to which partisanship and taken in our country; it has become facets of American society, both po-

back-to-school speech is not by any

THE SOU'WESTER

Editor-In-Chief

Ralph MacDonald

Co-Editor

Lee Bryant

News Editor

NeNe Bafford

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Andrew Mullins-Willaims

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Copy Editor

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Business Manager

Effie Du

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

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Reaching *The Sou'wester*

Phone: (901) 843-3402

Fax: (901) 843-3409

E-mail: thesouwester@gmail.com

Address: Rhodes Box 3010

The Sou'wester

2000 North Parkway

Memphis, TN 38112-1690



ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

Herenton refuses to let go of political spotlight

By Jake Groves

In the wake of former Memphis mayor Willie Herenton's recent announcement that he would be pulling a petition for candidacy in the Oct. 15, 2009, special mayoral election, which is being held as a result of his July 30th resignation, and then his withdrawal of that very statement nine days later, I am left asking myself, "Why won't he just go away?"

Although these acts are by no means surprising, simply being the next items on a long and ever-growing list of inanities and blunders attributed to Herenton, it is still by all means frustrating. After his July 30 resignation, which he justified as enabling him to "focus all his energies" on running for a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives against incumbent Steve Cohen, Memphis City Council Chairman, Myron Lowery, became Mayor Pro Tem of Memphis. Soon thereafter, Herenton decided to make his displeasure with Lowery's actions and policies apparent by picking up the petition form necessary to get his name put on the October 15 election ballot. This action was exceedingly absurd, even by Herenton's standards--he is infamous for befuddling politicians and bureaucrats with such vacillations--and he was wise to protect the sliver of credence still attached to his name by not actually following through with the petition.

Despite the fact that he is no longer a part of the Memphis City government, Herenton continues to assert and make public many of his opinions. For example, recently, he bluntly predicted that A C Wharton, mayor of Shelby County, would be the winner of the October 15 special election, which he dubbed a "crapshoot." Herenton even remarked, regarding Wharton: "He needs to thank me."

Even though the attention such brass statements have garnered recently in the media are just a vestige of his brazen demeanor that has haunted Memphis City Hall since 1991, they deliver a stark reminder to the citizens of Memphis as next month's election approaches: be careful who you vote for. During the last two decades, and even prior to that, Herenton's seat has been shrouded by accusations of affairs and misprisions that, although they remain merely allegations, have tainted his own name along with that of the Memphis political scene as a whole.

The most recent scandal surrounding Herenton is an ongoing Federal investigation regarding the former mayor's business practices. Accusations rose to a fever pitch when Herenton requested that his pension dues be paid in a lump sum. This entails that he would receive his entire pension in one payment instead of over a fixed number of years. This request also protects his pension from being revoked in the event that irrefutable evidence of his graft and corruption were to arise at some point in the investigation. Herenton admitted openly that the action on his part is a protective one, but he continues to deny any claims that he abused his mayoral authority in order to increase his profit from personal investments.

Although he has finally tapped out of his role as mayor, the risk still remains that he will be elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in the 2010 election. Although I am not a native Memphian, it pains me to think of such a nascent city as Memphis being belittled on a national scale by Herenton's ignominious reputation. Please, Mr. Herenton, just go away.



Photo courtesy of ThadMatthews.blogspot.com

Willie Herenton served as the Mayor of Memphis for over seventeen years.

Eight things to consider about health care reform

By Will Smith
Staff Writer

Unless you have been living under a rock recently, you know that one of the big issues facing the nation concerns the Democrats' proposal for health care reform. Few issues can stir the emotions and energy of people in the way that health care can; after all, what can be more important than our health? As you try to navigate and understand this red-hot issue, it is easy to get riled up with emotion. Both sides have been guilty of exaggeration, appeals to emotion, and outright deception. The following are some brief thoughts on eight of what I consider to be the most fundamental and/or commonly heard concerns about health care reform. In writing this, it is my hope that this will stimulate critical thought and discussion about the fundamental issues of health care reform.

1. *Is healthcare/health insurance a right?* What it means for you to have a right is that others are obligated to you in a certain way. A right is a morally, and often legally enforceable, claim to something. To have a right to healthcare/health insurance suggests that someone is *obligated* to provide it, which means that you have a claim on some amount of another person's time or money. It is one thing to say that we have a right to life (a negative right in the sense that people are obligated to avoid killing us), but it is quite another to claim that we have a positive right to a good. How do we enforce this? Is it desirable to have this kind of right? What are the implications for the concept of self-ownership?

2. *Our health care system certainly has problems, but is it as bad as some people would have you believe?* There are several surveys that show that the majority of people polled have positive feelings toward their current personal health care plan. Nevertheless, the fact of the matter is that polls are often biased in nature. Furthermore, most people are likely to give more credence to the studies with results that coincide with our own currently held beliefs. Keeping all of this in mind, we should be skeptical and search for opposing results, or at least recognize that there probably are opposite results, anytime we look at and consider opinion polls.

3. *Why is it that the knee-jerk reaction seems to be for individuals to assume that the government should "fix" the health care situation?* Why can we not try to find ways to fix the health care situation without also making the federal government even bigger than it already is? Indeed, so many of the problems inherent in the American healthcare system are the result of past government regulations. Consider who benefits from the government getting more involved. If politicians achieve universal healthcare, or even a "public option," then it will be perceived that they have done a great thing for the American people. But, if the government gives you health coverage, it can also take it away. The Democrats will remind people of this, scaring them by claiming that Republicans will want to take it away (they already do this with Social Security). It is not so much a vote-buying tactic as it is a vote-extorting scheme. The Democrats do not even need to bring the Republicans into the game; if people are grateful for the government health care, they may be willing to let the politicians have even more power. More power in the hands of politicians, along with the inherent inefficiency of the federal government, will lead to a disastrous situation.

4. *Rationing is inevitable, but it will be worse if the government is administering healthcare.* In the current system, rationing occurs based on who can afford to pay and who poses the least risk to the insurance companies. In a healthcare system operated by the government, bureaucratic rules, interest groups, possibly the sheer number of people desiring treatment, and other problems would add to these problems.

5. *Where in the Constitution does it say that the federal government can provide a "public option" health insurance plan?* Answer: nowhere. And, if you cite the Commerce Clause, then you are leaving the door open for justification of just about anything. One of the major purposes of the Constitution is to limit the government. If we do not take the limitations prescribed by the Constitution seriously, and especially if the political establishment fails to respect them, then the Constitution is at risk of being nothing more than words on paper. Even the most enthusiastic supporter of government action ought to realize the dangers that this poses.

6. *Do health insurance companies have an incentive to deny people coverage?* A major concern is that insurance companies have an incentive to deny coverage to their clients (the incentive being to lower costs and thus increase profits). Though this incentive exists to a degree, if an insurance company gains a reputation for poor coverage, people will avoid doing business with them. So, then, the bigger incentive is to cover as many people as is reasonable. It is not unfair for insurance companies to charge higher fees and/or to refuse to cover people with pre-existing conditions, it's rational and responsible. The insurance business is all about risk. People with pre-existing conditions, and those whose lifestyle choices put them at a higher risk for future health complications, pose more costly risks for insurance companies. Insurance companies are businesses and they need money to survive; without the money, no one gets coverage.

8. *The Republicans have yet to come up with a detailed plan for reform of their own.* Republicans may be able to prevent the Democrats from ramming through a reform plan, but, even so, such prevention will be largely due to public outcry rather than to in-Congress political maneuverings. Unless the Republicans in Congress can come up with their own plan for reform, they will ultimately lose the healthcare fight. The same goes for any future opposition to Obama or the Congressional Democrats' plans—it will not be enough to simply be naysayers.

A final thing to consider is that, whatever reforms end up being made into law, if there is any component of it that will be administered and carried out through the executive branch, there will be a whole new layer of rules and regulations in addition to whatever the law itself dictates. Bureaucracies add an immense amount of regulation, and bureaucrats are not directly responsible to the people; they have no constituents. Of course, indirectly they are responsible, but all one has to do to see how much that matters is to investigate any bureaucracy in existence. The government plan as written in the law might actually work well, but we cannot know as of now how well the actual implementation would work.

Student Voice

What was the coolest thing you did this summer?



"I kicked it at Myrtle Beach."
- Colin Fletcher, 2011

"I worked in a Baptist summer internship. It was a medical internship where we shadowed doctors all over the hospital."
- Scott Galloway, 2010



"This summer, I worked at the Bonner Center on campus. We ran the Rhodes Soup Kitchen and planned freshman Bonner orientation."
- Catherine Coker, 2012

"I worked at a Pharmacology lab at UT's health & science center doing research."
- Mustafa Motiwala, 2013



"I had a job driving golf carts and I went to Europe."
- Alex Wilkerson, 2013

Join the movement now

By Jasmine Gilstrap

For over one billion people across the world, healthcare systems are non-existent. GlobeMed, a student organization dedicated to improving the healthcare systems of impoverished countries around the world, works with various grassroots in order to combat this issue.

The story of GlobeMed begins at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where the network's headquarters remains today. What started as a medical supply mission turned into a global medical relief program, which forms the basis of the network today. The GlobeMed Network serves the purpose of providing guidance to the chapters across the country in their journey towards global health equity.

The chapter of GlobeMed at Rhodes begins its second session this year with ten executive leaders and a number of eager newcomers. Determining a specific project and mobilizing resources to achieve greater unity are the two focuses of the organization for the year in addition to strengthening their connection with their partner, AMOS Salud y Emperanza in Nicaragua.

AMOS Salud y Emperanza is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of people who suffer from the unjust conditions of poverty. Rhodes' partnership with the organization started in 2008 with the formation of GlobeMed. This past summer, six students from GlobeMed visited the center in hopes of further connecting with the cause and those affected by it.

"I gained a better understanding of what partnership means and learned that it is a long and challenging process," said Shannon Fuller, co-president of GlobeMed chapter at Rhodes. "It was our first time going so it was neat to see the other team members get inspired and come back to share it."

With various fundraisers such as the "Coffee Table" and the Silent Art Auction, taking place Parents weekend, the organization raises funds which go directly to their partner. The organization also helps educate the public and generate awareness of the healthcare crisis as part of their commitment to improving global health.

Since the founding in 1999, GlobeMed has contributed to improvements in healthcare in over 18 different countries and affected more than 100,000 lives. Through working with doctors, businesses, and other professionals passionate about the cause, GlobeMed makes a positive impact and advances health in the communities of their partners. To become involved with GlobeMed, contact the Rhodes chapter of GlobeMed at Rhodes@globemed.org.

Lynx football wins opener

By Andrew Mullins-Williams
Sports Editor

Rhodes College opened their 2009 football campaign in splendid fashion with a victory over the Westminster Blue Jays on Saturday afternoon.

In the first-ever meeting between the two teams, Rhodes College showed patience and poise by using a balanced attack and timely defense to secure the victory.

Rhodes opened up the scoring on a 20 yard field goal by freshmen kicker Lucas Stockhausen. However, the Lynx needed a quarter and a half to shake off opening-day jitters and found themselves with a 14-3 deficit with 10:44 remaining in the 2nd quarter.

Quarterback Brett Stoots threw an interception on his first pass of the day, and the Lynx followed with a fumble that resulted in a touchdown late in 1st quarter. However, even with the early mistakes, the Lynx would not be denied.

Matt Gilbert finished off an 11-play 56 yard drive, with a 1 yard touchdown run midway through the second quarter. Nico Lagueruela added a 15 yard run 3 minutes later to make the score 16-14 at half time.

Westminster head coach John Welty said, "In the second quarter we didn't get it done, they scored and we just didn't rise up to the challenge."

Matt Gilbert widened the lead with another 1 yard touchdown run with 8:29 left in the 3rd quarter and Rhodes College added another field goal to provide the finishing touches on Westminster.

Andrew Meier led the way on defense with 9 tackles, and senior captains Kendral Ellison and Andy Boucher helped the cause by coming up with important interceptions and timely sacks.

Head coach, Joe White said, "Even though we made mistakes early, I am really proud of our guys and the way they battled and came back."

The victory marks the beginning of new season and perhaps is a preview of good things to come for Rhodes football. The next home game is against Trinity on September 19.

Fashion, continued from Front Page

and interaction about smart alcohol decisions, and opens up a learning opportunity that promotes the theme of responsibility displayed in the new policy."

The students who helped create the new policy were as follows: Jill Carr, Colin Cox, Damon Dowd, Rachel Harpool, John

Hensley, Jim Kingman, Michael Lewis, Alex McWhirter, Allyson Pellisier, John Pevy, Mikkel Quam, and Morgan Rote. If you have any questions about the new policy and its use, please contact one of the following faculty members: Carol Casey, Bob Johnson, M.L. Gough, Pam Detrie, John Blaisdell, Chad Ahren, or Marianne Luther.

Calendar of Events September 9-15

September 9

All Students Interested in Asia (ASIA)
First All Member Meeting
Time: 5:00pm to 5:15pm
Location: FJ-C

Health Professions Society All Member Meeting

Time: 6:00pm to 6:30pm
Location: FJ-A

NPHC 101

Time: 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Location: FJ-B

Sorority 201

Time: 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Location: McCallum Ballroom

September 10

Smoothie Sensations Smoothie Social
Time: 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Location: Lynx Lair

Faculty Concert Series: Andy You, violin with Julie Schap, piano
Time: 7:30pm to 9:00pm

GLBT Advocacy Meet and Greet
Time: 6:00pm to 6:50pm
Location: Conservatory

September 11

The Big Diehl Free Night at Golf Games and More
Time: 4:00pm to 12:00am
Location: Off Campus

September 12

The Big Diehl Free Movie of Your Choice
Time: 9:00pm to 9:30pm
Location: Off Campus

September 13

HPA-PreMed meeting for Juniors/Seniors
Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Location: FJ-C

September 14

Annual Constitution Day Lecture: Historian Dr. Charles Zelden
Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Location: Blount/Buckman Lobby

September 15

GlobeMed Meeting
Time: 8:00pm to 10:00pm
Location: Rhea Lounge

Chess Club Meeting

Time: 9:00pm to 10:30pm
Location: Buckman 207

Pandemic at Rhodes?

By Katherine McCoid

At the beginning of the semester, the Moore Student Health Center delivered Ziploc bags filled with a "Student Health" pamphlet, a bottle of Purell, a tissue packet, and sanitizing wipes to every student's mailbox. The H1N1 virus, otherwise known as Swine Flu, is of great concern this season and caused the Health Center to fill the bags with items that will help prevent the number of flu cases this year.

According to nurse Patricia Sterba, RN, BSN, Rhodes is trying to be proactive in their approach to both H1N1 and seasonal flu. In fact, Rhodes has a Flu Committee, which has been convening since last spring, when H1N1 first appeared. Sterba emphasized the best way to protect yourself against this disease is to cover your mouth, wash your hands, and clean your room with an antibacterial wipe, such as Lysol.

According to Sterba, a couple of Rhodes students have been diagnosed with the flu since school began; however, there is no way to confirm whether they have H1N1 or the seasonal flu. This year, the Health Center will carry both the seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccines. The seasonal flu vaccine will be available on Monday September 14, and the H1N1 vaccine should be available in October. While the seasonal vaccine costs \$15, the H1N1 vaccine is free of cost. The Health Center recommends that everyone get both vaccines, and due to high demand, Sterba has ordered enough H1N1 vaccine for every student, faculty, and staff member to receive this vaccine.

Students, also have a variety of feelings toward the pandemic. Freshman Kelly Patton believes, "People need to stop freaking out about it." But she also adds that she is, in fact, taking precautions such as washing her hands often. Freshman Chelsey LaRussa stated, "If I get it I'm going home!"

Majority of the H1N1 cases have been mild to moderate. Swine Flu spreads in the same manner as seasonal flu: through contact with an infected person, mainly through coughing or sneezing. Swine Flu is not as airborne as the seasonal flu. This means the H1N1 virus is primarily spread through touching an infected surface, then touching your nose or mouth. Solution: wash your hands often, and avoid touching your nose or mouth.

If you think you may already have the flu, you should see a doctor immediately, and if you do have the Swine Flu, Sterba recommends you go home if possible, but if not, you should remain isolated for at least seven days. This means you should not go to class or the cafeteria. A program is set up to bring ill students comfort food, including soup and macaroni and cheese, from the Rat.

For more information on Swine Flu from Rhodes Health Services, visit <https://www.rhodes.edu/healthservices/13042.asp>.

A new year ushers in a new RSG

By Matt McCulloch
RSG Vice-President

This year, Rhodes Student Government (RSG) plans to increase its interaction with the student body.

Too many students have asked me, "What does RSG stand for? What do you do?" We hope to reach out more than ever to make students involved in our activities.

The recent town hall meetings concerning healthcare reminded me that representative governments are responsible for turning to their people (in our case, Rhodes students) for comments, suggestions, and direction. It should be no different in the Rhodes community.

By re-defining itself as an intentional, pro-active, communicative organization, RSG plans to draw in the student body in several ways. Our new Facebook page, "Rhodes Student Government," will be updated in a timely manner that posts our meetings, important documents, and

decisions for the student body's viewing. Additionally, we have recently installed a suggestion box in the Rat. Every student Senator will have office hours every week, and any student can come by the RSG office (Burrow 301) to talk with them during those times.

RSG can only be as effective as students are interested. If we don't see any support for a proposed change, we won't be able to work with the administration to see the change through. To serve you, we need to know your concerns, your praises, and your thoughts about Rhodes. We are the intermediary between students and administration, but the last thing we want to be is the middleman. If used as intended, we can instead function as a catalyst.

We hold General Session every other Wednesday in Buckman 108 at 7:00pm, with our first meeting on Wednesday, September 9. All students are welcome to attend.

Peace through music

By Lizz Glaus
Staff Writer

Four years ago, the soulful voice of Santa Monica street performer Roger Ridley singing "Stand By Me" inspired a massive collaborative project to unify and connect the world through the overwhelming power of music. Mark Johnson, the movement's co-founder, was on Santa Monica's 3rd Street Promenade at just the right time to realize that Ridley's passion could not justifiably be kept from the rest of the world any longer.

The Playing For Change movement is a network of fantastic musicians, a series of small documentaries and collaborative recordings entitled *Songs Around The World*, and an effort to provide artists with a barrier-free creative environment. The goal is simply to demonstrate the unifying power of music, and to provide an example to the rest of the world about how much good people can do by working together.

Now, the movement has grown from that inspiration into the Playing For Change Foundation. The non-profit organization works with an international web of musicians, as well as Timeless Media and the Concord Music Group, through a series of benefit concerts, with a mission to give back to the communities that gave us these refreshing performers. Specifically, the Foundation serves to fund and build art and music schools in communities "that need inspiration and hope," according to the movement's information on their website, playingforchange.com.

New Orleans street legend Grandpa Elliot was among the first to join the movement. He is featured in performances of "Stand By Me," "Change Is Gonna Come," "Fannie Mae," and other *Songs Around The World*. Based on his interviews, it seems as if his involvement with Playing For Change has inspired him as much as he has inspired his fans and the musicians with whom he is now working. In one interview, Grandpa said, "Playing for Change, man... All my life I've been putting out love, but not like that."

Other voices featured in the Playing For Change documentaries belong to Amsterdam's Clarence Bekker, Barcelona's Francois Viguié and Manu Chao, Zimbabwe's Louis Mhlanga, the Congo's Mermans Kenkosenki, Israel's "Tula," and many others.

In a documentary interview, Mhlanga reflected on his experience with the Playing For Change band, saying, "In each artist, deep inside, there is that feeling of spreading the message so that people can hear... a good message for people to change out of music." Tula describes the movement and the benefit concerts as "an amazing and very powerful experience."

I encourage everyone to check out the website—watch the videos and see what the Playing For Change movement is really about. It is difficult to imagine the full impact without seeing the joy the musicians feel when they meet (often for the first time) to play together, keeping in mind their ultimate goal with the project. As Mark Johnson put it in the most recent documentary, "It's about inspiring the planet to come together through music."

Vampires walk among us in *True Blood*

By Janie Logan

Arts & Entertainment Co-Editor

Now all of the vampire puns are out of the way, but *True Blood* frequently inspires its fans to use them because nothing else can quite describe this show.

At its core, *True Blood* is both light-hearted and full of emotion, bizarre and grounded in reality. It is pure fun entertainment that combines gothic fantasy, comedy, romance, violence, and Southern earthiness. If you look deeper, you will also find messages of alienation and the desire for acceptance, prejudice, and sacrifice.

The story revolves around a 25-year old telepathic bar waitress named Sookie Stackhouse (played by Anna Paquin, who won the 2009 Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Drama for her performance), living in the fictional small town of Bon Temps, Louisiana. In her world, vampires exist out in the open, after the recent development of a synthetic bottled blood called TruBlood (available in all blood types to serve each

vampire's preferences). Humans have a wide range of reactions to the "fangers," from fear and blind hatred, to curiosity and obsession. Most people are unaware that stranger creatures than vampires exist, too.

When vampire Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer) moves to Bon Temps, Sookie is fascinated by him, especially when she discovers that she cannot hear his thoughts. They save each other's lives on more than one occasion and fall in love. But this is not your average love story. Aside from being a 173-year old vampire and a mind-reading human, they have to deal with complicated vampire politics—there are Sheriffs, Kings and Queens, Tribunals, and a national organized movement fighting for Vampire Rights. All of that, in addition to a serial killer in Bon Temps who murders women associating with vampires, means that Sookie's life is changing very fast. Season 2 introduces another dark creature that pushes the town into hedonistic chaos for an ancient ritual.

Based on a series of books by Charlaine

Harris (see: below), *True Blood* comes from Alan Ball, Academy Award-winning writer of *American Beauty* and creator of *Six Feet Under*. Adapting the books, which are all from Sookie's perspective, has allowed him to develop more of the colorful characters in Sookie's life: Jason Stackhouse, Sookie's womanizing brother who doesn't have enough sense to save his life; Sam Merlotte, the sweet, loyal bar-owner with an unrequited love for Sookie and a supernatural secret of his own; Eric Northman, the Vampire Sheriff of the region whose authority over Bill allows him to use Sookie's unique ability to his service.

Ball brings a cinematic vision, and his own surprises, to the imaginative story on Harris' pages. Take a bite out of *True Blood*, and it will be sure to suck you in. (Okay, so I lied about not using anymore vampire puns.)

Season 1 of *True Blood* is available on DVD and Blu-Ray. The Season 2 finale airs Sunday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m. on HBO.

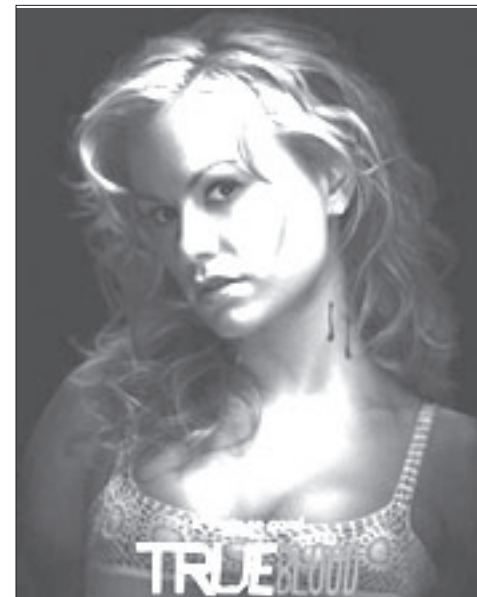


Photo courtesy of HBO, Inc.

Anna Paquin plays the mind reading waitress in the drama *True Blood*.

Interview with Rhodes alumna Charlaine Harris

By Janie Logan

Arts & Entertainment Co-Editor

Going to a small college like ours, you know that your great education and the closeness of the Rhodes community will help you succeed in your future life. One of Rhodes' most successful graduates, Charlaine Harris, is a bestselling author many times over. I had the privilege to meet Ms. Harris at the sci-fi/fantasy convention Dragon*Con, held in Atlanta, GA, over Labor Day weekend, where we talked about her time at school, her books, and *True Blood*, the television show based on her Southern Vampire series.

SW: In what ways did Rhodes help you grow as a writer?

CH: It certainly helped me grow because it gave me the opportunity to read a lot of writers I would never have read if I hadn't had to read them for class, and I think that's always enriching. And it gave me the opportunity to write almost anything I wanted, for some reason or another. I could almost make up my reason. I wrote plays, I wrote a lot of things.

SW: What's one of the best memories you have from school?

CH: Gosh, anything Professor Hill taught—Ray Hill. That was just fabulous. I learned a lot with him. I learned a lot about being in a group situation, and directing the conversation, a little bit about acting, a little bit about a lot of things that have really been helpful. And I had some wonderful English professors, of course—Bernice White was wonderful, Dr. Wood was great. And just getting to know the other students. I'm sure a lot of people at Rhodes have the same experience when they've been the big fish in a small pond in their high schools. They come to Rhodes and everyone is just as smart as they are, if not smarter. And that's always a good reality check to get, I think. It makes you more respectful of other people.

SW: So you think theatre was a good background for being a novelist?

CH: I definitely think so, and just the area of communications, in general. My interest wasn't really theatre, but I took the discussion group, and several speaking courses that helped me prepare for what I'm doing now.

SW: What did you read when you were younger that inspired you to write fantasy stories? And what do you read now that can possibly measure up to what you do with your own imagination?



Photo Courtesy of Janie Logan

Charlaine Harris, author of the Sookie Stackhouse series, at the Dragon Con book signing.

CH: [laughs] That's a very nice thing to say. I read a lot of Poe when I was younger, and a lot of Sherlock Holmes, so I guess those two influences. And I read *Jane Eyre* maybe 12 times! And *Rebecca*. I guess the show and the books are really a stew of all that put together, come to think of it, with the horror, the mystery, and the romance. Plus vampires! It's all a lot of fun. As to what I read now, goodness, there are so many good writers around now, I just feel fortunate to have so many good people to read.

SW: You have all 9 of your Sookie Stackhouse books on the New York Times bestseller lists right now. *True Blood* has about 10 million solid viewers, and the online community is one of the most devoted fan groups I've ever seen. So what do think it is about this story that people are just converging on right now?

CH: Well, if I was sure, I would have done it several years ago, to make the past few years easier financially. I don't know what it is that latched on. I can only be glad that it did.

SW: It's such a wonderful escapism for people—life's hard, you know?

CH: I think that's true, people do need an escape more when they're facing economic and social difficulties.

SW: You've just finished Book 10, *Dead in the Family*. Can you tell me anything about that?

CH: Well, it really turned out to be about family issues. I didn't get the title until I was more than halfway through with the book. There are troubles in Sookie's extended family, there are troubles in Eric's family, there are troubles in Bill's family. So, it's a complicated book with a lot of characters. I really enjoyed writing it—it's a more tightly focused book than the past couple of books have been.

SW: I know you won't tell me who Sookie will end up with, even though you know, right? What I do want to ask is—her world has expanded so much since *Dead Until Dark*—do you think she knows what she wants, what will make her happy and fulfilled?

CH: I think that she's in the process of deciding. She's still going through a lot of big life changes. All of the books take place in about a year and a half so far, so that's a huge amount of change for a young woman who was a virgin until she was 26. I think that her life is still in the process of altering her character.

SW: When you watch *True Blood*, is it exciting for you to see the things that are different?

CH: Oh yes, because it's surprising. I never know what Alan's going to do! It's so much fun that Alan and I trust each other. He never tries to suggest anything for the books, and I never try to suggest anything for the series, because we're

Interview, continued on Page 7

Inglourious Basterds: Two-fifths of a good movie

By John Bryant
Staff Writer

When Mother suggested going to see *Inglourious Basterds* with me, it was very hard to conceal my haughty contempt at the shameless effrontery of her offer. You see, mother's taste in film is so terribly pedestrian. She shares none of my finer appreciation of film artistry and nuance (you don't even want to know how many daring and uncompromising indie films I've read about on Wikipedia). How could she savor all the cinematic subtleties of a Tarantino film, fully relish the fine aged wine that is his unrivaled, genius command of film history and cinematic style? I pleaded with the woman, "Mother dear, don't you know what a Tarantino film is? A decadent wit-a-thon punctuated by bursts of comically hyper-stylized violence, a rather scandalous country buffet of film buff in-jokes, a total disregard for standard storytelling, repeated bitch-slaps to the face of audience expectation? Mother, mother, can't we just see something breezy and throwaway? Can't we settle, just this once, for something a little less ingenious and audacious than a Tarantino film?"

But Mother was, again, absolutely incorrigible. So we went. And I must say, even for those of you who like Tarantino (me included), *Inglourious Basterds* is still only 2/5 a good movie. Which 2/5, you ask? I'll tell you, Mr. Impatient Peruser: the 2/5 that actually has *inglourious basterds* in it. Yes, when he is onscreen, Brad Pitt is a force of cartoonish majesty (think droll drill sergeant amplified tenfold by sheer awesomeness). Yes, when Tarantino decides to indulge us, the violence is downright shocking and outright hilarious. And yes, when those *inglourious basterds* are given the chance to speak (or, more accurately, whenever Tarantino decides to trade clever lines with himself via the voice boxes of the basterds), it is truly a rip-roarin', knee slappin', bro hi-fivin' good time. My only problem is this: *inglourious basterds* only make up about 50 minutes of *Inglourious Basterds*. What's the rest? Part mock-art house tragedy, part long-winded, German-subtitled political thriller, part alienating indulgence in in-jokes (hope you've brushed up on your 1940's German cinema, as several punchlines hinge on such familiarity) and finally, and most disagreeably, part mean-spirited meta narrative that tells you not to have too much fun with the *inglourious basterds*. There is a curiously similar Nazi-sponsored propaganda film inside the film that Hitler seems to enjoy watching just as much as you enjoy watching Brad Pitt's immoral destruction of Nazi hordes.

Unless you're in on Tarantino's joke here, you won't be having as much fun as you would have hoped. You see, Tarantino knows what the common audience wants: two hours of Dirty Dozen-esque revenge fantasy (which would've been awesome). And Tarantino has such a breathless familiarity with movie form that he could have easily indulged us. But instead he uses his extraordinary command of genre style to break and twist the rules at will—just because he's a smarmy bastard and is catering to a film elitist crowd. This Tarantino film is a narrow, niche game of "catch the movie reference and admire my super-hip, daring dismantling of convention." That is also why he mixes genres so jarringly and teases your patience with boring subplots until he decides to dangle another Brad Pitt carrot scene in front of your face.

The joke was on me and the joke will be on you. Now, forget all I've said. Go see it. Because 2/5 of this movie is funny as hell and worth your time and money. And you can always do what my mother did, which is take a nap until Brad Pitt comes back onscreen and says something clever, fun, and outrageous.



Photo courtesy of google.com

Brad Pitt leads the guerilla effort against the Nazis in Quentin Tarantino film.

Interview, continued from Page 6

each doing what we do best and we're enjoying it very much.

SW: Obviously, the entire cast is so talented and has developed their own characters in really unique ways, but which one do you think most closely embodies who you picture in your head?

CH: Oh my gosh. I guess Stephen Moyer as Bill is probably the closest to the way I had him in my head. He's just such a fine actor, and I love his subtlety in the role.

SW: You have a cameo coming in the Season 2 finale, don't you? What was your favorite experience from being on the set that day and filming?

CH: Well, I had lunch in Merlotte's with Alan, and I thought, "Okay, we're in a place that isn't real, but we are having lunch in the booth!" That was fun. And then watching how everyone did what they're supposed to be doing was so interesting to me. To see how dedicated all the people were. To watch everything that goes into making two minutes of film--the hours that go into the makeup, moving the cameras, rehearsing the lines, getting the action in that little bit of film right. Where Rutina and Sam are gonna cross behind the bar, their little bit of business done. Who was going to bring the fake whiskey. It was just complicated and fascinating.

Dazed at the New Daisy

By Jake Groves

Memphis has such a wide variety of great music to offer. I had the pleasure of enjoying an energizing night of ear-bleeding and slam dancing when I recently saw several hardcore/screamo bands at the New Daisy Theatre. Headlining was Alesana, with Enter Shikari and The Bled providing some excellent preliminary tunes after the no-names Broadway and Asking Alexandria opened the show.

Enter Shikari, a British hardcore band fusing elements of techno music with the seemingly unrelated screamo scene, was the first band I saw. Technical issues with the bassist's (Chris Batten) effect pedal prevented the band from playing on time. This led to some excessive mic-checking by Batten's band mates in an attempt to divert attention from the floundering phalanx of techies surrounding Batten's sound board. Thankfully their sinking ship was righted and the music finally started. It was thoroughly enjoyable, except for vocalist/electronics player Roughton "Rou" Reynolds' preppy attire and snobbish charisma that attempted to outshine his more talented band mates, who were reeling off sprees of triplets to mask Rou's lackluster vocals.

Enter Shikari vacated the appointing set for everyone, but Bled jolted the audience back person hardcore act. There were this band's set. For one, it lasted the mood of the sour after-taste the five-person set-up allowed incited the Daisy's usual vigor hardcore kids began moshing tive style, complete with flail-personal space. The set's energy Muñoz, leaped unexpectedly was extremely short-lived, it abeyant audience-members' of praises being shouted stage-in front of the stage. His charm back on stage, however, due which replaced all of my excitement. Nevertheless, The Bled offered that set up perfectly for the

Alesana, the headliners of North Carolina, gave the show received emo streak. The band formula: three guitarists/vocal-and one screamer. The act included some quaint idiosyncrasies, such as drummer Jeremy "Jables" Bryan playing in a speedo and bassist Shane Crump's full mask of gothic-kid make up. Musically speaking, they were the tightest and most talented group of the night. This spurred an unforeseen level of audience excitement, which manifested itself, again, in the form of moshing and hardcore dancing. The first song of Alesana's set was incredible from the start. Unfortunately, Alesana found this energy-level difficult to maintain and their passion waned as the set went on.

The next hardcore/screamo show will be on Sept. 28, when Emmure will be headlining with backup from Evergreen Terrace, For Today, et al.



Photo Courtesy of Lizz Glau

Shikari entertains the crowd at the New Daisy Theatre in downtown Memphis.

stage after only five songs, a dis-luckily Tucson, Arizona's The to life with their formulaic five-many entertaining things about more than five-songs, which rid left by Enter Shikari's flop. Also, for a much fuller sound, which and activity. The multitude of and dancing in their distinc-ing limbs and irreverence for peaked when lead singer, James into the pit. Although this visit succeeded in awakening a few spirits and doubled the volume ward by a bevy of pre-teen girls subsided soon after hopping to his unnecessary vulgarities, ment with confused resentment. a tight, infectious performance headliners, Alesana.

the show hailing from Raleigh, a rather surprising but well-offered a fairly standard screamo ists, one drummer, one bassist, and one screamer. The act included some quaint idiosyncrasies, such as drummer Jeremy "Jables" Bryan playing in a speedo and bassist Shane Crump's full mask of gothic-kid make up. Musically speaking, they were the tightest and most talented group of the night. This spurred an unforeseen level of audience excitement, which manifested itself, again, in the form of moshing and hardcore dancing. The first song of Alesana's set was incredible from the start. Unfortunately, Alesana found this energy-level difficult to maintain and their passion waned as the set went on.

This Week in Entertainment

New Movie Releases:
9/9/09

9

9/11/09

Sorority Row
Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All by Myself

Television Highlights:
So You Think You Can Dance- Season 6 premiere, Wednesday, 7 pm, FOX

Glee- Season 1 premiere, Wednesday, 8 pm, FOX- Featuring the Glee Club's rendition of Salt 'n Pepa's "Push It" and Kanye West's "Gold Digger"

Are baseball celebrations going too far Wild card races are heating up

By Andrew Mullins Williams

In case you missed the highlights on ESPN, Prince Fielder has sparked an ongoing debate about celebrations in baseball. Fielder came to bat with one out in the 12th inning against the San Francisco Giants and hit a 0-1 pitch into the right field seats.

So far so good.

However, as he rounded 2nd base, he un-tucked his shirt and as he stomped on home plate, his teammates fell over backwards in unison—resembling a bowling ball hitting the pins.

While seemingly harmless and playful, I was shocked to see the reactions of many players, coaches, and commentators.

Bench Coach of the Giants Ron Wotus said, “*Did you see that celebration? You would like to think professionals would have a lot more respect for the game and their opponents. That was choreographed.*”

While I understand that perhaps the Giants were bitter about losing a game (considering they are still actually playing for something), the sentiment shown was accepted widely around the baseball community.

Tori Hunter of the Los Angeles Angels said, “*If I was a pitcher, ... my mouth would be wide open. I’d be shocked. Baseball is not like the NFL, where you can celebrate in the end zone. You’ve got to keep your cool, play the game. You can’t do that.*”

My question is—why not?

Why should baseball be regulated so players can’t have fun? Why shouldn’t a player hitting a game winning homerun, at home no less, be able to celebrate with his teammates? When did being playful become a slap in the face to your opponents?

Perhaps there needs to be a better written and more established line to what the proper etiquette in baseball entails. LeBron James has a ritual and often poses with his teammates before tip-off. Dikembe Mutombo shakes his finger after every block. Terrell Owens pulled a sharpie out of his sock to sign a touchdown pass (and that was mild for him), and Chad Ochocinco needs no introduction.

If all these athletes are able to have fun and play with their teammates before, during, and after games—why should Fielder be left out?

This isn’t the first time that celebration in baseball has been chastised either.

Mets pitcher Nelson Figueroa threw a fit when the Washington Nationals showed too much emotion in a victory. “They were cheer-leading in the dugout like a bunch of softball girls,” Figueroa complained. “I’m a professional like anyone else. I take huge offense to that.”

It truly is astonishing the reaction that people have to seemingly harmless fun. It isn’t like baseball is the most well mannered game ever. The same people who criticize mildly exuberant celebrations are the same people that grab their crotch to re-adjust their cup on national TV, spit tobacco like llamas, and even play practical jokes that are far more tasteless than a choreographed homerun celebration.

So let’s stop pretending that baseball is such a well mannered game, and start to see it as the entertainment it is supposed to provide to fans. If players want to have fun while doing the job they work so hard at—then so be it.

After all, that was exactly what Fielder was trying to do.

By Gordon Chadwick
Staff Writer

Though there are still about 25 games left in the MLB regular season, every division race except for the NL West seems to already be determined. So, barring any major melt downs or improbable winning streaks, the rest of the teams must set their sights on the Wild Card.

AL Wild Card

As the Rays and Mariners fade back into the pack and out of contention, the only two teams left fighting for the AL’s final playoff spot are the Boston Red Sox and the Texas Rangers. Based solely on star power and payroll, one would expect the Bo Sox to run away with the last playoff spot.

After all, most of us would choose Josh Beckett, John Lester and Tim Wakefield over Kevin Millwood, Tommy Hunter and Scott Feldman any day.

The only problem is that Beckett has been very shaky lately and Wakefield’s health has kept him off the field while Hunter and Feldman have been thriving. The Red Sox also face the problem of having to send Junichi Tazawa and Paul Byrd out to the mound far too often. Despite a shaky fifth starter, I would expect to see the Red Sox superior lineup and outstanding bullpen drag this team into the playoffs where they can shift to a 3 or 4 man rotation.

The other thing in the Red Sox favor is that they will play 13 of their final 25 games against teams with losing records. The Rangers shouldn’t be counted out, but it seems like this race is the Red Sox’ to lose.

NL Wild Card

Three teams, the Rockies, Giants and Marlins, still have a chance to squeeze into the playoffs in the National League. The battle between the top two teams is especially intriguing because it puts the high powered Rockies offense, (the NL leader in runs scored), against the Giants’ dominant pitching staff.

Hanging around in third place are the Florida Marlins who boast the third most productive offense but have faced clubhouse problems surrounding their extremely talented shortstop, Hanley Ramirez.

The Giants are going to need their pair of aces, Matt Cain and Tim Lincecum, to step up and win their final 5 or 6 starts this season, although neither has been able to lately, winning only 2 of their last 14 starts combined. Both the Rockies and the Giants will play plenty of games at home, where both teams have thrived this season. The next week or two will be a major test for the Giants, as they have to face the Dodgers and the Rockies 9 times collectively.

Already boasting a two game lead, the Rockies will likely ride their easier schedule and long season ending home stand to an NL Wild Card victory though, admittedly, the Giants are an extremely tempting choice to make a comeback while the Marlins will face a considerable challenge to keep themselves in this race.

Sports Calendar

September 11

Women’s Soccer vs East Texas Baptist University (TX)
12 noon

Men’s Golf at Transylvania Invitational
12 noon

Women’s Volleyball vs Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.)
4 pm

Men’s Soccer at Principia College, IL
7 pm

Women’s Volleyball vs Loyola University (La.)
8 pm

September 12

Women’s Soccer at Hardin-Simmons University (TX)
12 noon

Football at Haskell Indian Nations U.
1 pm

Women’s Volleyball vs Spring Hill College (Ala.)
1 pm

Field Hockey at Hendrix
1 pm

Women’s Volleyball vs Principia College
5 pm

First week of football promises intrigue

by Ralph MacDonald
Editor-in-Chief

The final gun sounded, and another mid-major conference team was standing on the slumped shoulders of the Oklahoma Sooners.

For the BYU Cougars, they are reaching heights that they have already achieved in the 1980’s when they were a national powerhouse that finished number one in the AP Poll in 1984.

The Oklahoma Sooners are also on familiar ground, having lost the 2007 Sugar Bowl to Boise St, signaling The Broncos’ emergence into a national contender. Those who bleed Sooner red are also haunted by memories of three consecutive losses in National Championship games, making them the Buffalo Bills of the early 21st century.

But BYU’s gain is greater than Oklahoma’s loss, and it has serious implications for the rest of the college football season.

The Mountain West Conference has three serious candidates to go undefeated. BYU, TCU, and Utah all have only two more ranked opponents on their schedules...all against each other. Barring a Big 12 circa 2008 type round-robin beating, chances are one of these three teams will go undefeated. Of the three, BYU (with its win over Oklahoma) and Utah (with a current fifteen-game win streak) merit the most consideration for a National Title game.

Oklahoma is in trouble. An opening loss against a quality opponent is hardly the end for those blessed with high preseason rankings. But Sam Bradford has got to get healthy quick, because an October 3rd showdown with #20 Miami will be the first of five top 25 opponents that Oklahoma will see down the stretch.

With no remaining opponents in the Top 25, Boise St. has the best chance to run the table. But assuming one of the MWC teams do the same, Boise St. is likely to find itself shouldered out of National Championship contention. Of course, with such a weak schedule, the Broncos could find themselves edged out by a one loss team from the SEC, Big 12, Big 10, or Pac 10. The ACC ruled themselves out with a lousy opening week, complete with two losses to FCS (formerly D1-AA) schools and the Big East is still the Big East that lost National Title contenders Miami and Virginia Tech.

The Alabama Crimson Tide hung 34 points on the much-vaunted Virginia Tech defense, providing another example of why the SEC Championship should be considered a play-off for a berth in the National Championship (as if three consecutive dominating victories in National Championship games were not enough). Another win this year and the SEC will have swept my college years.